

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 11

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 11 2008

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to any paper(s) indicated above, and is responsive in any other manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 were pending, under consideration and subjected to examination in the Office Action. Appropriate claims have been amended, canceled and/or added (without prejudice or disclaimer) in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, such changes are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment and are simply refocused claims in which Applicant is present interested. At entry of this paper, Claims 1-9 will be pending for further consideration and examination in the application.

NON-REWRITTEN ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Although claims 2-6 and 9 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten, as indicated within the "Allowable Subject Matter" section on page 5 of the Office Action, rewriting has not yet been effected as it is believed that any base and intervening claims will be allowed responsive to this paper. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to rewrite the potentially allowable claims at a later time if necessary, and Applicant and the undersigned respectfully thank the Examiner for such indication of potentially allowable subject matter.

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 12

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC '102 - TRAVERSED

The 35 USC '102 rejection of claims 1, 7 and 8 as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,820,168) are respectfully traversed.

In order to properly support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection, any applied art reference must disclose each and every limitation of any rejected claim. The applied art does not adequately support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection because, at minimum, such applied art does not disclose (or suggest) the following discussed limitations of Applicant's claims.

All descriptions of Applicant's disclosed and claimed invention, and all descriptions and rebuttal arguments regarding the applied prior art, as previously submitted by Applicant in any form, are repeated and incorporated hereat by reference. Further, all Office Action statements regarding the prior art rejections are respectfully traversed. As additional arguments, Applicant respectfully submits the following traversal comments from Applicant's foreign patent representative.

Office Action noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "in response to the access-right change command from the host computers (different paths) are changed or revised all together at a time in batch processing by the disk device") were not recited in Applicant's prior rejected claim(s). However, clarified claim 1 (provided herewith) clearly recites the features such as "changing a batch said I/O-enable/disable information relating to plural paths between said host computers and said disk device in accordance with said access-right change commands from said host computers". This feature is not taught from Tanaka et al.

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 13

More particularly, the I/O-enable/disable information in an access-right management table (35a, Fig. 2) relating to plural paths between the host computers and the disk device is changed in response to an access-right change command (110, Fig. 11) from one of the host computers. As described in page 26, line 25 to page 27, line 1 of the specification, the access-right change command (110) includes the host identification information for identifying the hosts whose access rights should be changed, and the information on the I/O-enablement/disablement.

Accordingly, by transmitting only one access-right change command from a host computer, a batch of the access-right information for the host computers whose access rights should be changed can be revised all together with no need to concern for the number of host computers and paths between the host computers and the disk device. Because, as described in page 16 line 25 to page 17 line 12 of Applicant's specification, the disk device includes the path-information management table (35b, Fig. 3) for managing which of the hosts has held which of the paths. This table allows the access control on each I/O-request basis to be performed not on each path basis, but on each host basis.

Further, as is apparent from Fig. 4, the host computers (10, 20) transmit all the pieces of the respective path information for the disk device (30). The path-information change unit 33 of the disk device 30 updates the path information in the path-information management table of the access control table. Accordingly, by transmitting only one access-right change command from a host computer, the disk device can revise a batch of the access-right information for the host computers whose access rights should be changed all together with no need to concern for the

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 14

number of host computers and paths between the host computers and the disk device.

In the storage system disclosed in Tanaka et al., according to the description in column 9 lines 19-29, an exclusion control #2 (655) is performed for access to logical volume #2 (640) with LPAR-ID #2 (645) and WWN#1 (650) specified in the exclusive/priority control table. That is, the data in the exclusive/priority control table is changed for one access path from a specified WWN of a specified LPAR to a specified logical volume at a time upon a single change command from a host computer. Tanaka et al. does not concern the change of a plurality of access-rights upon a single access-right change command from a host computer.

The storage system of Tanaka et al. has a problem as mentioned in the description in page 6, lines 3-12 of the present specification. The present invention can provide a solution to such problem. It is noted that an object of the present invention is to provide a node switching method and an information processing system that allow a failure-occurrence-time I/O node-switching to be executed in a shorter time even in a large-scale system where hosts, logical disks, and paths connected to a disk device are large in number. The object of the invention disclosed in Tanaka et al. does not relate to the I/O node-switching executed in a short time in a large-scale processing system.

To assist in an understanding, attached herewith are two drawing sketches.. One of the sketches shows Applicant's present invention and another shows Tanaka et al. Assuming there are eight paths (path Nos. 0-7) between the hosts and the disk device, and 200 logical volumes (LU0-LU199) in the disk device. In Applicant's present invention, in response to a single access-right change command from the

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 15

standby-node host, a batch of the I/O-enable/disable information for plural paths between the hosts and the disk device can be changed. In Tanaka et al., if all of the I/O-enable/disable information for plural paths between the hosts and the disk device are changed, 1,600 (8x200) individual access-right commands must be transmitted to the disk device.

As a result of all of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art would not support a '102 anticipatory-type rejection of Applicant's claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such '102 rejections, and express written allowance of all of the rejected claims, are respectfully requested. Further, at this point, it is respectfully submitted as a reminder that, if new art is now cited against any of Applicant's unamended claims, then it would not be proper to make a next action final.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorneys at the local Washington, D.C. area telephone number of 703/312-6600 for discussing any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 16

disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, i.e., Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Authorization is herein given to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 500.44934X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

OHASHI, et al., 10/806,338
11 February 2008 Amendment
Responsive to 09 November 2007 Office Action

500.44934X00 / W1482-01EO
Page 17

Based upon all of the foregoing, allowance of all presently-pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP


/Paul J. Skwierawski/

Paul J. Skwierawski
Registration No. 32,173

PJS/slk
(703) 312-6600